

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NDJAME 01131 181530Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01 AID-05
TRSE-00 PC-01 EB-08 DOE-11 SOE-02 MCT-01 /111 W
-----045781 181535Z /14

O R 181200Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6621
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 1131

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, PBOR, CD,F LY
SUBJECT: CHADIAN/LIBYAN NEGOTIATIONS

REF: NDJAMENA 1099

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR AND I COMPARED NOTES AGAIN
ON THE MORNING OF MARCH 18. HE SAID THAT HE THOUGHT
OUR DECISION TO POSTPONE MY ABSENCE FROM NDJAMENA
WAS SOUND AND THAT COMING WEEK WOULD BE ACTIVE.

2. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT DURING THE COURSE OF THE LAST
FEW DAYS PRESIDENT MALLOUM'S POSITION ON CONCESSIONS
TO THE REBELS SEEMS TO HAVE BECOME MUCH STIFFER.
EARLIER IN THE WEEK FRENCH HAD BEEN ASKED TO DELAY THE
ARRIVAL OF NEW MILITARY EQUIPMENT, TO LIMIT DRASTICALLY
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PAGE 02 NDJAME 01131 181530Z

THE PATROL ACTIVITIES OF THEIR UNITS IN MOUSSORO, MONGO
AND ABECHÉ, AND TO SEND CERTAIN FRANCH OFFICERS ON
VACATION DURING SEBHA CONFERENCE. ALL THESE REQUESTS
WERE REVERSED BY MALLOUM YESTERDAY. FRENCH ALSO
INTEND TO EXTEND THEIR DEFENSE COMMITMENTS WESTWARD
TO MAO.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER KAMOUQUE IS NOW IN TRIPOLI, MAKING HIS EXCUSES FOR EARLIER OPPOSITION TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH LIBYA, BUT HE HAS NOT REALLY CHANGED HIS HARD LINE STANCE. AS PENDULUM BEGINS TO SWING AWAY FROM NECESSITY OF IMMEDIATE CONCESSIONS, HIS STAR MAYBE RISING AGAIN. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ROASNGAR AND MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS ZAKARIA ARE NOW TENDING TOWARD HIS POSITION. HOWEVER, DISPUTES WITHIN THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL DURING THE WEEK HAVE EVIDENTLY BEEN BITTER, AND THE WOUNDS WILL NOT HEAL RAPIDLY.

4. SUDANESE AMBASSADOR HAS INFORMED ME THAT KHARTOUM SAYS ALL ARRANGEMENTS ARE IN ORDER FOR MARCH 21 MEETING AT SEBHA WITH REBELS, BUT BOTH FRENCH AMBASSADOR AND I DOUBT IF REBEL LEADER KOUKOUNI WILL EVEN APPEAR. REBEL RADIO HAS SHOWN NO SIGN OF ABAITING ITS CALL FOR A MILITARY OVERTHROW OF MALLOUM QUOTE TYRANNY UNQUOTE. CHADIAN DELEGATION AT SEBHA WILL APPARENTLY BE HEADED BY VICE PRESIDENT DJIME. BRADFORD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NDJAME01131
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780120-1017
Format: TEL
From: NDJAMENA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780352/aaaabrir.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f1a07cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NDJAMENA 1099
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3283205
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHADIAN/LIBYAN NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, PBOR, CD, LY
To: STATE CAIRO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f1a07cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014